amounts of Special Central Assistance to the welfare programmes for the target group and was informed that no further fund would be released to it till the full amount of SCA lying in the Civil Deposit is released and utilised for the purpose for which it was meant. The CAG has been requested to conduct a special audit of funds given to Government of Bihar under various Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for SCs and STs.

As per the latest information from the Government of Bihar received in September 1996, the State Government have released all the amounts of SCA lying in the Civil Deposit and utilised during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 upto 19.9.1996. However, it is further observed that a sum of Rs. 6.40 crores is still lying unutilised with the State Government. Similarly the information as to whether the funds released from Civil Deposit have actually been utilised by the developmental agencies in accordance with SCA guidelines is also not available. The State Government has therefore been asked to give further clarifications/ detailed information on the utilisation of funds so that a final decision could be taken in the matter.

(d) and (e). The NGOs against which complaints have been received and action taken thereon are given below :

1. Complaint regarding misuse of funds by an organisation called Pandit Bachhan Panday Mahila Vikas Sansthan Gopal Ganj, which is getting grant in aid for implementing welfare scheme for SCs was inquired into by the concerned District Magistrate and was found that the grant given to this organisation is being mis-appropriated. Therefore no further grant is being released to this organisation. Another complaint received against this organisation regarding misuse of funds given to it under the scheme for Prohibition and Drug Abuse prevention is being investigated by the Government of Bihar.
2. Complaints received against two organisations namely (1) Harijan Adivasi Mahila Seva Sansthan, Distt. Purnia, and (2) Mental Retarded and Psychological Sufferers, Patna, regarding misuse of funds given to them for handicapped welfare, were got examined and these NGOs have been asked to refund the Govt. grant with interest.
3. Grant-in-aid to one organisation called Indira Gandhi Samaj Sevashram, Patna, for running an Old Age Home was stopped from the second instalment of 1995-96, as the CAPART has blacklisted it. No specific complaint has been received against this NGO with reference to the running of the Old Age Home with financial assistance from the Govt. of India, Ministry of Welfare.

[English]

Payment Terms between Super Bazar and Suppliers

644. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the payment terms between the Super Bazar and suppliers;

(b) the number of bills pending for payments to the suppliers and the amounts thereof and since when these bills are pending;

(c) whether the Super Bazar is not maintaining payment terms and the payments to the suppliers are delayed unduly long;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government to ensure timely payment to the suppliers?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a), (c) and (d). The Super Bazar, Delhi has informed that they are normally making payments to the suppliers as per the agreed payment terms, which vary from supplier to supplier. The period of payments generally range between 3 days and 45 days. Some times payments have to be delayed on account of late realisation of credit sale proceeds from the Govt. offices and other organisations.

(b) As per the information furnished by the Super Bazar, Delhi the total number of bills to be paid to the suppliers as on 20-11-1996 is about 2000 involving about Rs. 8.00 crores. Receiving bill, processing it and making payment is a continuous process. By this process pending period of bills varies from 1 day to 45 days as per term of the payment. However, due to delayed recoveries of dues from Govt./Semi-Govt. offices and/or on account of objections during processing, payment of some bill gets delayed.

(e) It has been reported by the Super Bazar that to improve the financial management, they are trying to improve sales, introduce computerisation for effective recovery of credit sales and taking inventory control measures like weeding out the less popular brands.

Construction of Godowns in Andhra Pradesh

645. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent a proposal for construction of godowns for PDS under the Revamped Public Distribution System areas;

(b) if so, whether the proposal has been considered by the Government;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter; and

(d) if not, the time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal of Government of Andhra Pradesh for financial assistance under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for construction of godowns for PDS under Revamped Public Distribution System areas was considered in the Standing Finance Committee in its meeting held on 11th October, 1996.

(c) The Committee has approved financial assistance to Andhra Pradesh Pradesh to the tune of Rs. 124.20 lakhs for construction of 16 godowns with a capacity of 5000 MTs. Sanction for release of funds have already been issued vide letter No. 21/43/95-PD. I dated 24th October, 1996.

(d) Does not arise.

Sales of Super Bazar

646. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the annual sales of the Super Bazar during each of the last three years including 1996, so far;

(b) the year upto which the accounts of the Super Bazar have been audited;

(c) the details of the shortcomings/irregularities noticed in their accounts by the auditors; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) According to the information furnished by Super Bazar, their annual sales during the last three years are as follows :

1993-94	Rs. 115.20 crores
1994-95	Rs. 130.15 crores
1995-96	Rs. 136.54 crores
1996-97	Rs. 63.00 crores (upto April-Sept., 96)

(b) Accounts of Super Bazar have been audited upto 1995-96.

(c) According to the information furnished by Super Bazar, major shortcomings/irregularities pointed out by their auditors are as follows :

(i) Stock shortage

(ii) Suggestion about item-wise control instead of value control of stock. (iii) old ouTstanding dues in Sundry Debtors. (iv) not getting approval about the credit limit from Registrar. (v) maintenance of records in repect of fixed assets. (vi) disowning of liabilities of Rs. 11.78 lakhs by the concerned party from the Patel Nagar branch against purchase of goods.

(vii) Bank reconciliation.

(d) Management of Super Bazar has reported that appropriate action has been taken in respect of all the items.

[Translation]

Rice Growing Areas in Gujarat

647. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of rice producing areas in Gujarat particularly in the tribal and backward areas of the State;

(b) whether any Rice Research Centre has been set up or proposed to be set up by the Government in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Rice producing areas in Gujarat are covered in the districts of Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Bharuch, Valsad, Dangs, Gandhinagar, Kheda, Mehsana, Panch Mahals, Sabarkantha, Surat, Junagadh and Surendranagar, out of which Punchmahals, Valsad, Surat, Vadodara, Bharuch and Sabarkantha are particularly in tribal and backward areas of the state.

(b) and (c). There is one rice research centre located at Nawagaon under Gujarat Agricultural University. The Centre has an annual plan budget of Rs. 7 lakh for 96-97 and VIIIth plan budget of Rs. 28.76 lakh.

[English]

Investigation for Gold Plating Urea Plants

648. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news item captioned "Urea plants under investigation for gold planting" appearing in the Financial Express, New Delhi dated 14th October, 1996;

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto; and